

Florida VPK Assessment

Florida law requires private and public VPK providers to use the Florida VPK Assessment as a pre- and post-assessment for each child in Florida attending a VPK program. Teachers can use assessment results to identify skill levels of children in their programs, track how literacy, language and mathematics skills develop across the year, and guide instruction in the VPK classroom. Assessment results are not used for accountability.

Description of VPK Assessment Measures

The VPK Assessment includes progress monitoring measures in the areas of Print Knowledge, Phonological Awareness, Mathematics, and Oral Language/Vocabulary that are aligned with the Standards for Four-Year Olds.

The content for the three early literacy measures was decided by identifying the best predictors of later reading success. Print knowledge, phonological awareness, and oral language/vocabulary are the best predictors for conventional early reading ability. The content for the early mathematics measure was decided by identifying the best predictors of later mathematics success. Number sense is one of the best known informal predictors of formal mathematics ability. In addition, research demonstrates that all four skill areas (e.g., print knowledge, phonological awareness, mathematics, oral language/vocabulary) can benefit from targeted instruction during the preschool year.

Print Knowledge Measure

Print Knowledge assesses the child's ability to recognize letters or words, and his/her knowledge of letter names (both upper and lower case) and the sounds they make. The Print Knowledge measure includes a total of 12 assessment items and two practice items.

Phonological Awareness Measure

Phonological Awareness is the awareness and manipulation of the different sounds in a word. The Phonological Awareness measure includes a total of 14 assessment items and two practice items. The Phonological Awareness measure assesses the child's ability to:

- Blend (put together) a word if it is broken up into smaller sounds or syllables.
- Blend a compound word.
- Recognize the remaining word when part of the stimulus word is taken away.

Mathematics Measure

The Mathematics measure assesses early numeracy skills across three different areas: counting skills, numerical relations skills, and arithmetic reasoning skills. The Mathematics measure includes a total of 13 assessment items.

Oral Language/Vocabulary Measure

The Oral Language/Vocabulary measure includes a total of 22 assessment items in Assessment Period 1 and 23 assessment items in Assessment Periods 2 and 3.

The Oral Language/Vocabulary measure:

- assesses a child's expressive language and receptive language.
- targets the child's knowledge of adjectives, verbs, verb tenses, prepositions, and nouns.

Dates for Assessment Periods (AP)

For VPK providers operating a 540 hour school-year program (e.g., August-April/May) the Assessment Period windows for the administration of the (VPK) Assessment are as follows (*required).

- Assessment Period 1 - the month of September*
- Assessment Period 2 - the month of January
- Assessment Period 3 - the month of April/May (end of program year)*

The Department recommends administering the VPK Assessment items for AP1 and AP3 in semester/summer programs. It has not been our practice to assign dates for the semester/summer administration of the VPK Assessment, but AP1 is usually given at the beginning and AP3 is usually at the end of the program.

VPK Assessment Online Reporting System

The Department of Education has developed the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System to provide teachers with a user friendly tool to track children's progress in attaining the skills in the Standards for Four-Year Olds, so that teachers may use this information to guide instructional decisions in the VPK classroom.

The VPK Assessment Online Reporting System is available to all registered providers free of charge. This system allows VPK teachers to enter each child's assessment results and then analyze children's data in order to plan lessons that meet the individual needs of all children.

The VPK Assessment Online Reporting System has the capacity to;

- Create individual, classroom, and center level reports to track progress.
- Link the assessment data to instructional strategies and resources that are aligned with the VPK Education Standards.
- Create a letter to parents about their child's performance on each assessment measure.

VPK Assessment Online Reporting System Updates

VPK providers are required to enter each VPK child's results into the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System after administering the VPK Assessment items for Assessment Period 1 (AP1) and Assessment Period 3 (AP3).

New VPK Administrators must go to VPK Assessment Online Reporting System - Initial Registration Wizard and register their center/school to access the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System for the first time. Once the initial registration is completed, the VPK Administrator may begin using the Online Reporting System to set-up center staff accounts, classrooms, and add children.

Existing VPK Administrators must go to VPK Assessment Online Reporting System - Initial Registration Wizard and reset their password each program year (e.g., School-Year or Summer) to access the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System. Once the password has been reset, the VPK Administrator will be able to reactivate existing center staff accounts and add new center staff, classrooms, and children to the Online Reporting System.

The VPK Administrators will need their 4- or 5-digit Provider ID (assigned by the Florida Office of Early Learning) and the center/school's 5-digit Physical Address Zip Code before starting the Initial Registration Wizard.

Questions

Should you have questions regarding the Florida VPK Assessment and/or the Online Reporting System, please contact us via email at vpkassessment@oel.myflorida.com.